

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

DRAWINGS

Applicants have provided two replacement sheets for Figures 1-4. Applicants have included a Prior Art legend on Figure 1. Applicants respectfully request acceptance of the replacement sheets and removal of the objection to the drawings.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 2, 7, and 9. Applicants have added new Claims 10-17. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of pending Claims 1-17.

CLAIM REJECTION – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Independent Claims 1 and 9

Claims 1 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 4,747,686 issued to Sato in view of United States Patent No. 4,884,200 issued to Kimura.

Amended Claims 1 and 9 specify “at least one UV radiation source for emitting radiation at two wavelengths in order to carry out a chromatographic analysis for detection of directly fluorescent chemical substances and detection by a fluorescence inhibition method.” Applicants respectfully traverse the statement made by the Examiner on page 4 of the Office action that one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to increase the number of UV sources with different UV wavelengths in order to decrease the amount of time required to irradiate the object. The Examiner has provided no cited reference to support this assertion. The invention defined by amended Claims 1 and 9 provides a compact, rapid image acquisition apparatus capable of processing autonomously a plurality of chromatography supports. As acknowledged by the Examiner, Sato and Kimura do not teach or suggest the use of at least one UV radiation source emitting radiation at two wavelengths. Nor is this claimed subject matter taught or suggested by any of the other cited prior art. Therefore, independent Claim 1, dependent Claims 2-5, 8, and 10, and independent Claim 9 are allowable.

Dependent Claims 2-5 and 8

Claims 2-5 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato in view of Kimura. Claims 2-5 and 8 depend from independent Claim 1 and are therefore allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1. Claims 2-5 and 8 also specify additional patentable subject matter. Therefore, Claims 2-5 and 8 are allowable.

ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in Claim 7. Applicants have amended Claim 7 into independent form by incorporating the limitations of Claim 1. Applicants have added new Claims 11-16 to depend from new independent Claim 7. Applicants have also added new independent Claim 17 which incorporates the limitations of dependent Claim 7 and independent Claim 9. Applicants respectfully request allowance of independent Claim 7, dependent Claims 11-16, and independent Claim 17.

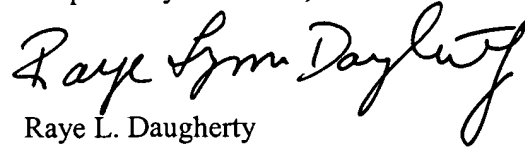
COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR INDICATION OF ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In the statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter on page 5 of the Office action, the Examiner indicates that none of the prior art of record specifies the “cover means” set forth in Claim 7 and summarizes various teachings from the prior art in support of this conclusion. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner’s reasons only rely on one of the elements of Claim 7, and that the reasons presented represent only one of the reasons why Claim 7 is allowable. Also, new dependent Claims 11-16 include additional allowable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of pending Claims 1-17.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raye L. Daugherty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Raye" being the most prominent.

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